

Message Text

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51

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 AID-20 IO-12 DPW-01 EB-11 COME-00 OMB-01

RSR-01 /150 W

----- 066153

O R 301120 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3876

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL UDORN

USDEL JEC PARIUT

RUEY A/ USIA WASHDC 3340

SECDEF

USADO SAIGON

DIRNSA FTQG MEADE MD

CINCPAC

CINCUSARPAC HAWAII

COMUSMACTHAI

IVUMOSRA/ DEPCHJUSMAGTHAI

CDRSFSSAG NKP

CDR GGE AF ADVON UDORN

DODSPECREP BANGKOK

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DODSPECREP NKP

RHMFMTAWCHSPECACTS BANGKOK

7 ACCS KORAT

354 TFW KORAT RTAFB

56 SOW NKP

432 TRW UDORN

CDR JCRC NKP

8 TFW UBG

ARMA/ AIRA VTN LAOS

ARMA/ AIRA SVKMAOS

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 3306

CINCPAC FOR POLAD; 13 AF ADVON, 432 TRW, 56 SOW, 36 TFW
AND 8 TFW FOR DO/ DI; MACTHAI FOR AHW AND PAO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, PINS, PINT, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: LAO SITUATION REPORT - APRILYEP

REF: VIENTIANE 3272

BEGIN SUMMARY: MILITARY - APRIL 28-29 ACTIVITY LIMITED TO MINOR
CLASHES IN MR II AND IV. POLITICAL - VIETNAMESE POW EXPOSED TO PRESS
INTERVIEW. GVN/ RLG DELEGATION PROPOSE DRAFT AGREEMENTS ON
USE BY LAO OF PORTS OF DA NANG AND SAIGON AND OF
ACCESS THERETO. END SUMMARY

1. SECTION I - CEASEFIRE OBSERVANCE

A. MR I: THERE WERE FOUR MINOR GROUND INCIDENTS 27-28
APRIL. IN THE EVENING 27 APRIL, FRIENDS RETOOK WITHOUT
OPPOSITION, POSITION THEY HAD LOST ON 20 APRIL NORTHWEST
OF XIENG LOM; THE ENEMY SUBSEQUENTLY SHELLLED THE POSITION,
BUT NO CASUALTIES WERE REPORTED. SLIGHTLY NORTHEAST OF
FOREGOING POSITION, A FRIENDLY FORCE OF 60 TROOPS CLASHED
WITH AN ESTIMATED 30-40 ENEMY ON THE AFTDGNON OF 28 APRIL
(3 FRIENDS KIA, 3 WIA). ABOUT 25 KM NORTHWEST OF XIENG LOM,
FRIENDLY UNITS ON PATROL REPORTED TWO CLASHES 27-28 APRIL,
SUSTAINING ONE WIA. ON 28 APRIL, ABOUT 0 # GOVERNMENT

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TROOPS WERE INSERTED BY SAMPAN ALONG MEKONG APPROX 30 KM
SOUTHEAST OF BAN HOUET SAI AND, SHORTLY THEREAFTER, EX-
CHANGED FIRE WITH TWO ENEMY SQUADS JUST INLAND FROM THE
RIVER (THERE WAS EVIDENCE OF TWO ENEMY WOUNDED). RLAF
FLEW NINE T-28 SORTIES 28 APRIL AND AGAIN ON 29 APRIL,
ALL IN SUPPORT OF FRIENDLY TROOPS INVOLVED IN FOREGOING
GROUND ACTIONS, DESTROYING THREE GUN POSITIONS AND DAMAGING
A FOURTH.

B. MR IV: IN UPDATE OF MAJOR ENEMY- INITIATED INCIDENT AT BAN BUENGKEO REPORTED REFTEL, ENEMY SUSTAINED 3 KIA AND 3 WIA. ON MORNING OF 20 APRIL, ENEMY INITIATED MINOR SHELLING OF FRIENDLY POSITION IN SOUKHOUMA (NO KNOWN CASUALTIES). AN INTERESTING CASE OF LOCAL ACCOMODATION HAS BEEN REPORTED NORTHEAST OF KHONG SEDONE (NEAR BAN KENGOU), WHICH HAS, UNTIL RECENTLY, BEEN A TACTICALLY ACTIVE AREA. LOCAL COMMANDERS OF OPPOSING FORCES HAVE REPORTEDLY MET AND AGREED TO STANDDOWN TO ENABLE LOCAL RESIDENTS TO PROCEED WITH THEIR RICE PLANTING.

C. NO SIGNIFICANT GROUND OF AIR ACTIVITY REPORTED IN MR' S II, III AND V.

2. SECTION II - POLITICAL SITUATION

A. XAT LAO. APRIL 29, PUBLISHED AN ACCOUNT OF ITS REPORTER' S INTERVIEW WITH NORTH VIETNAMESE PRISONER AT FAR GENERAL STAFF. PRISONER WAS REPORTEDLY CAPTURED AFTER CEASEFIRE AND INTERVIEW WAS ARRANGED BY GENERAL ETAM SINGVONGSA. (COMMENT: GENERAL STAFF HAD INITIALLY ENVISIONED PRESS CONFERENCE ON MUCH GRANDER SCALE WITH PRISONER; BUT AFFAIR WAS TONED DOWN AFTER EMBASSY HAD DRAWN TO THEIR ATTENTION PROVISIONS OF GENEVA CONVENTION AND COUNSELLED AGAINST THIS KIND OF EXPLOITATION. END COMMENT)

B. OFFICIAL LAO PRESSE, APRIL 30, REPORTS THAT VISITING SOUTH VIETNAMESE DELEGATION, HEADED BY HOANG NGOC THAN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF COMMUNICATIONS AND POSTS, HAS WORKED UP WITH RLG DELEGATION DRAFT AGREEMENTS ON (1) CONFIDENTIAL

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UTILIZATION BY LAOS OF PORTS OF DA NANG AND SAIGON (EXPANDING 1954 AGREEMENT LIMITED TO SAIGON); AND (2) FREEDOM OF TRANSIT OF COMMERCIAL GOODS FROM FOREGOING PORTS TO LAOS (REVISING A 1959 AGREEMENT). TWO DELEGATIONS REPOTEDLY REACHED AGREEMENT SUBMIT DRAFTS TO RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS FOR APPROVAL. (COMMENT: ARRANGEMENTS REPRESENT A STEP FORWARD IN LAOS' LONG SEARCH FOR ALTERNATE ACCESS TO OCEAN PORTS. END COMMENT)

DEAN

NOTE BY OC/ T: # AS RECEIVED. WILL BE SERVICED UPON REQUEST.

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N:-

P*Q4Y***3*****I**6*50*W1***2**\$V***FQ***9*****2ZHJL**TWT*Y***/***U*\$D**E*****.M****

I***0*-K***(*****)S#**

8Q*\$**A*G*O**U**.*V***T5\$*****/\$**;5;*\$*TSS**AF7U\$-P**) *;*

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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To: BANGKOK
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
EA
JAKARTA
MOSCOW
PARIS

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